

The embodiments of the invention in which an exclusive property or privilege is claimed are defined as follows:

1. A device for positioning a knee joint in a leg for examination during a diagnostic procedure, by reproducibly positioning a lower extremity of the leg, in a predetermined degree of flexion relative to an upper extremity of the leg, said device comprising:

- a support member, said support member configured to allow the knees to flex while fixing their location with respect to the supporting member;
- a lever arm secured in proximity to the radial end to the cradling means and pivotally at its central end to the support member;
- a cradling means for securing the lower extremity of the leg in a fixed relationship to the lever arm ; and
- a biasing means to place a bias on the lower extremity of the leg tending toward positioning the lower extremity of the leg in a predetermined relationship to the upper extremity of the leg;

2. The device of Claim 1, wherein the lever arm comprises means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means.

3. The device of Claim 2 wherein the means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means is selectably engageable.

4. The device of Claim 3 wherein the means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means comprises a ratchet.

5. The device of Claim 3 wherein the means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means comprises a series of positioned holes and pin.

6. The device of Claim 3 wherein the means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means comprises a cam locking mechanism.

7. The device of Claim 3 wherein the means for fixing the lever arm in angular relationship to the supporting means comprises a threaded rod and a block.

8. The device of Claim 1 wherein the cradling means comprises a cradle and strap slidably affixed to a crossbeam, itself slidably affixed to the lever arm in proximity to the radial end.

9. The device of Claim 1 wherein the cradling means comprises a clamping shell slidingly affixed to a crossbeam, itself slidingly affixed to the lever arm in proximity to the radial end.

5 10. The device of Claim 1 wherein the lever arm comprises a means to indicate the lever arm's angular relationship to the supporting means.

11. The device of Claim 10 wherein the means to indicate the lever arm's angular relationship to the supporting means comprises a capsule itself comprising an electrolytic solution visible to the imaging means.

10 12. The device of Claim 11, wherein the biasing means comprises an elastic cord affixed to the lever arm.

13. The device of Claim 12, wherein the biasing means additionally comprises a first set of at least one pulley affixed to the supporting means and wherein the elastic cord passes through the first set of pulleys.

15 14. The device of Claim 13, wherein the biasing means additionally comprises a second set of at least one pulley affixed to the lever arm and wherein the elastic cord passes the second set of pulleys.

15. The device of Claim 12 wherein the elastic cord comprises an inelastic member and an elastic member.

20 16. The device of Claim 15 wherein the elastic member comprises a series of blocks and a corresponding series of loops of elastomeric cord.

25 17. A method of imaging one or two knees, each on a leg comprising a lower extremity and an upper extremity, by means of magnetic resonance ("MRI") comprising:
fixing one or two knees to a supporting member, said member being transparent to MRI;
securing the lower extremity of each knee to a lever arm hingedly attached to the supporting member and transparent to MRI; and
biasing the lever arm as tending to a predetermined position.

18. The method of Claim 17 additionally comprising generating an image indicative of an angular relationship between the supporting member and the lever arm.

30 19. The method of Claim 17 wherein biasing comprises affixing an elastic cord to the lever arm and tensioning said cord.

20. The method of Claim 19 wherein tensioning comprises affixing the elastic cord to the supporting member.

1003-1-1003 APP